

**ABSTRACT**

A piezoelectric ignition mechanism includes first and second body members, a piezoelectric element associated with one of the body members, a plexor member associated with one of the body members, and an engagement portion associated with one of the body members. When the body members are in a first position, the plexor member is releasably retained at a distance from the piezoelectric element, and upon movement of the body members toward a second position, the plexor member is released and driven to impact the piezoelectric element. The engagement portion may be configured and dimensioned to provide resistance against movement of the body members toward the second position.

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